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1 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William Richard Smyser
INR/REA/AC
Department of State

SUBJECT : Loan of CIA Study on Levees in the Red River
Delta

1. Attached is one copy of the Geographic Support Project entitled, "Levees in the Red River Delta" (CIA/BI GS 66-5, September 1965). This is the document Mr. Janin of your office asked to see. In response to his request I am sending it through you on a loan basis.

2. This study is a general background analysis of the dike system and the problems that would be involved to effect any significant degree of breaching. It is purely a background and feasibility study, and in no sense whatsoever an operational recommendation. Its most politically significant conclusion is that any serious breaching would require a very intensive effort and a rather massive expenditure of ordnance. Thus, major damage to the dikes or the levee system is most unlikely to occur as the accidental by-product of raids mounted for other purposes.

3. As we have discussed, despite Hanoi's repeated claims that the dike and levee system has been a specific target of American attack, this is simply not true. It is possible that armed interdiction sorties flown against roads which run along the top of dikes and levees could be interpreted on the ground as attacks against the dikes themselves, but prima facie any attack specifically directed against the dike system would have to be far more intensive than anything the US has yet mounted.

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4. Since this is our office's only copy of the attached study, I would appreciate your returning it as soon as conveniently possible. Furthermore, because of the obvious political sensitivity of the dike question, I would appreciate your restricting the circulation of this document to those who have a legitimate requirement for examining its contents.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment
a/s

GACarver:mec

Distribution

Orig & 1 - Addressee w/att
1 - Dike Project file w/o att
1 - State Liaison w/o att
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